Sighting of UAV's in Ladakh

3229. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several Unmanned Aerial Vehicles have been sighted in Ladakh area during March, 2005;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that similar UAVs were sighted before Kargil war;

(d) if so, the steps taken to dispel fear among people living in Ladakh about the fallout of UAVs and to take up the issue with originating country, if identified; and

(e) what could be the purpose of floating these UAVs ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise

(e) The purpose of UAV generally is aerial observation of specific areas.

Import of Uranium from Russia

3230. SHRI HARISH RAWAT"
SHRI R.K.ANAND:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Russia has expressed its inability to supply enriched Uranium to India to meet the demand of Tarapur Nuclear Power Plant;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government have contemplated any alternative arrangements for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) No, Sir. No formal communication has been received from the Russian Govemment with regard to supply of enriched Uranium for Tarapur Atomic Power Project.

(b) Does not arise. (d)

Yes, Sir.

Launching of satellites by ISRO

3231. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ISRO is going to launch four satellites this year;

(b) if so, the details of satellites that are going to be launched this year; and

(c) by when INSAT-4A is going to be launched so as to start DTH Satellite TV applications by various service providers in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Cartosat-1 to be launched in May 2005 using PSLV Cartosat-1 is a remote sensing satellite with stereo mapping capability using a two-camera system providing 2.5m spatial resolution. A micro-satellite for amateur communication called HAMSAT is also to be launched piggyback with Cartosat-1.

INSAT-4A to be launched in the third quarter of 2005 using 'Ariane' launch vehicle.

INSAT-4A is a communication satellite providing coverage over India.

Cartosat-2 to be launched in the last quarter of 2005 using PSLV. Cartosat-2 is aremote sensing satellite with high resolution mapping capability at 1m spatial resolution.

SRE-1 (Space capsule Recovery Experiment) is to be launched along with Cartosat-2 as a co-passenger. SRE-1 is intended for demonstrating the technolgies associated with recovering an orbiting space capsule.

(c) INSAT-4A providing communication services including DTH is planned to be launched in the third quarter of 2005.

Test flight of GSLV

†3232. PROF. R.B.S. VERMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are making preparations for conducting third test flight of GSLV;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.